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*The Church and the Labor Conflict.* By PARLEY PAUL WOMER.  
New York: Macmillan, 1913. Pp. 302. \$1.50.

This book is a sincere and intelligent attempt to accomplish the impossible task of continuing a system of ethical theology and a technical program of social politics in one small volume. It has been frequently undertaken with the same disappointing result. This author has made good use of well-known treatises, but one must go to the more thorough discussions for a full mastery of any one of the many subjects. One point requires critical examination: the exact task of the church. The author says that the church has no equipment for deciding controversies on economic, political, or legal matters, and this is evidently true. And yet this principle is not consistently carried out, and appeal is made more than once to a summary dogmatic mental process, as: "The church should be slow to pass criticism on the courts," but it should, apparently, attack the judicial use of the injunction in certain situations (p. 224). So the church should have something to declare about the open shop (pp. 196-97). This statement is open to criticism: "It is certain that the church cannot afford to withhold its sanction of needed social changes and reforms until the economic and political problems have been worked out." Would it not be better once for all to say that the church may well continue to inspire conscience and afford all possible opportunity for studying the scientific presentations of facts, without accepting responsibility for formulation of legislation which must be left to specialists? Policies and their results may be judged by an enlightened people; the church can help men to learn, but it has no competent organs for direct interference with government or business, and any claim to authority will be quickly and vigorously resented by the parties against whom the church decides, whether trade unions or corporations.

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*Workmen's Compensation and Industrial Insurance.* By JAMES HARRINGTON BOYD, A.M., Sc.D., Chairman of the Ohio Employers' Liability Commission and Member of the Toledo Bar. 2 vols. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1913.

This work of patient compilation, legal analysis and economic criticism will be found indispensable for the student of social insurance in this country. The progress of public opinion is so rapid, and the

legislatures are so busy with the subject that the present laws will soon be out of date; but the discussion of history and principles will remain useful, and the book will be a milestone for future students.

One deplorable fact in the situation is brought out by the analysis of the laws thus far passed: they lack a unifying principle. There is no national and scientific investigation at the foundation of our laws; there is no agreement among legislators; there is only a hasty reflex response to the stimulus of a discovery of intolerable injustice in all past statutes and judicial decisions. We cannot hope for a really scientific system until the nation finds a way to control a movement in which state lines have not the slightest significance except as artificial barriers. Up to this time we must regard all laws yet passed as experiments in vivisection, inspired by the pious hope that out of this welter some order may at last be evolved, no one knows how. As evidence of a fine humanitarianism these acts are valuable; but the time is not distant when this entire contradictory mass of makeshifts must be cast aside for an adequate, consistent, scientific, national system. Such a system will include not only accident insurance but also sickness insurance which is vastly more important; and insurance of widows and orphans; unemployment, invalidism, and old-age insurance. No one has ever yet attempted to measure the annual loss from needless and preventable worry.

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*Crime and Its Repression.* By GUSTAV ASCHAFFENBURG; translated by A. ALBRECHT. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1913.

The translation of this very significant German book will make it accessible to a wider public in the English-speaking world and enlarge its wholesome influence. In the realm of the abnormal the psychiatrist has a right to be heard, and the jurist ought to listen. The fundamental conception of this work is that criminality, anti-social conduct, is the effect of discoverable and already known causes; that the obvious duty and interest of society is to remove those causes or diminish their activity as rapidly as possible; that it is futile to attempt measured retribution according to the degree of ill-desert; that all our energy should be devoted to effective means for protecting society.

Crime is not a disease transmitted by inheritance or inoculated by contact; it is an acquired habit into which people with weak character